

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2013

The Honorable Jack Lew
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Lew,

We are troubled by the recent reports from the Treasury Department indicating that the Internal Revenue Service targeted groups for excessive scrutiny on the basis of their political affiliation. This news raises serious questions about past decisions made by the Department regarding auto dealership closures that occurred in 2008 and 2009.

As Members of Congress who each went through the dealership closing process in our private capacities, we have concerns regarding the criteria used by both General Motors and Chrysler in the automakers' dealership wind-down. More importantly, we are interested in determining the role that your department played and the input it provided in drafting this methodology. The Automotive Task Force claims that an objective framework was provided for the evaluation of dealerships. However, the Treasury Special Inspector General Report SIGTARP-10-008 clearly states that the automakers' stated objective criteria were not consistently followed.

SIGTARP found that "there was little or no documentation of the decision-making process to terminate or retain dealerships with similar profiles, making it impossible in many cases for SIGTARP to determine the causes of deviations from the supposedly objective criteria."

In light of SIGTARP's findings that objective criteria were not consistently followed, along with the IRS's recent admission regarding political profiling, we deem it necessary for the Treasury Department to ensure that political profiling was not an aspect of the methodology used for determining dealership closures.

We formally request that the Treasury Department provide all e-mails, phone records, notes, memoranda, reports and other communications regarding the decision-making process for dealership closures from the Automotive Task Force headed by former Car Czars Steve Rattner and Ron Bloom. We also request the names of officials involved in making these decisions, any data considered by the agency in making these decisions and any meetings taken in making these decisions, including meetings with outside groups.

At the heart of this request is the obligation we have to the American people to ensure that political profiling has not been a systemic issue within this Administration.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Rep. Mike Kelly (PA-03)



Rep. Jim Renacci (OH-16)